

HELP MOBILIZE FOR THE PEOPLES' SOCIAL FORUM IN AUGUST 2014



JOIN AN EXPANSION COMMITTEE!

Join a local expansion committee in your community, or start one! There are active expansion committees mobilizing in Toronto, Ottawa, London, Montreal, Halifax, Guelph, Niagara, Vancouver, Regina, and Winnipeg.

ENDORSE THE FORUM!

Have your organization support the forum and sign onto the call.

PARTICIPATE!

10,000 people are expected to converge in Ottawa for this historic gathering. Activists, students, unions, Indigenous peoples, youth, environmentalists, and thousands of ordinary fed-up individuals from every region will unite to oppose the current political and economic direction, and propose a plurality of alternative paths towards a better world.

The Peoples' Social Forum will create a space for social movements to meet, interact, and propose collective actions and campaigns. The first two days will feature self-organized workshops – open to anyone to propose – to share knowledge, ideas, strategies, and inspiring stories of resistance. The third day will focus on movement assemblies, or large-scale facilitated meetings within a specific issue, designed to hear and gain consensus for proposals of collective action.

CONTACT: INFO-PSF-FSP@M2014.NET • PEOPLESSOCIALFORUM.ORG

SEIZE THE FUTURE

AUGUST 21-24, 2014



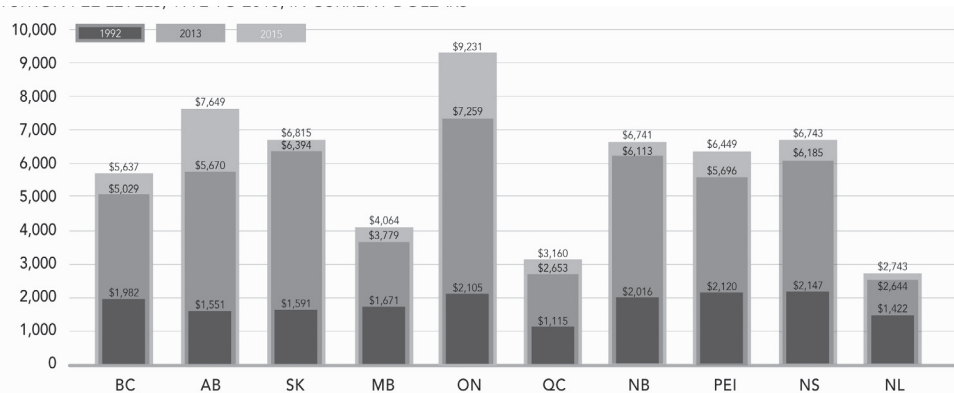
WORKSHOPS * MOVEMENT ASSEMBLIES * ACTIONS
POW WOW * MASS DEMONSTRATION * ALT. MEDIA FAIR

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UNDERFUNDING EDUCATION, STUDENTS IN DEBT

BETWEEN 1990 AND 2010, THE COST OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN CANADA HAS INCREASED FOUR-FOLD. THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS ESTIMATES THAT AVERAGE STUDENT DEBT IS NOW ALMOST \$28,000.

TUITION FEE LEVELS, 1992 TO 2015



Note: tuition fees for 2015 based on provincial government policy announcements, and current legislation.

PUBLIC FUNDING CURRENTLY ACCOUNTS FOR AN AVERAGE OF APPROXIMATELY 57 PERCENT OF UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE OPERATING FUNDING, DOWN FROM 80 PERCENT JUST TWO DECADES AGO.

Students who acquire large debts putting themselves through school are unlikely to think about changing society... When you trap people in a system of debt, they can't afford the time to think.

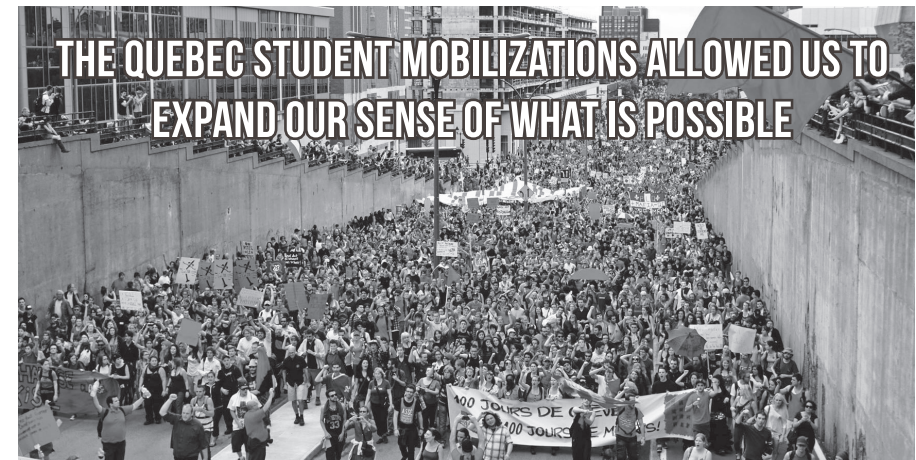
Tuition fee increases are a "disciplinary technique," and, by the time students graduate, they are not only loaded with debt, but have also internalized the 'disciplinarian culture.' This makes them efficient components of the consumer economy."



NOAM CHOMSKY, PROFESSOR, LINGUIST AND AUTHOR

A GRASSROOTS APPROACH TO A PEOPLES' SOCIAL FORUM

For the past two years a network of activists from coast to coast have been planning for this open forum. Putting the proper mechanisms into place and working on the infrastructure necessary to make this happen. Now it's time for local committees and crews to form and kick things into high-gear. Plan caravans, fill buses, propose actions and activities, endorse the forum, register on the website, and engage your networks!



“What we are fighting in Quebec, many are fighting across Canada: the privatization and degradation of public services, cuts to people's wages and old age pensions, and the free rein corporations have to destroy our environment and fuel climate change. If our rights can be taken from us by throwing our educational system into the marketplace, we can say the same for our hospitals, our water, our forests, and the soil beneath our feet.

This has always been the essence of our strike and our mobilization: a shared, collective vision whose scope lies well beyond student interests. In our campuses, in our workplaces, in cities and villages across our province, people have come together like never before: to talk, to debate, and to imagine a new society with us. And we are making new alliances, overcoming old divisions, all across Canada.

“IF WE ARE GUILTY OF ANYTHING, IT IS OF QUESTIONING THE DOGMAS OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL, WHO HAVE SPENT THE LAST DECADES TRYING TO LOWER OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR WHAT IS POLITICALLY POSSIBLE.”

-CAMILLE ROBERT & JEANNE REYNOLDS, CLASSE

Excerpt from Toronto Star editorial by Camille Robert and Jeanne Reynolds of CLASSE, a temporary organization formed by ASSE, a key participant in the Peoples' Social Forum